



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI HIGHLIGHTS HELP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 109th,
PLANS TO LEAD CHARGE ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO FAMILIES***

Washington, D.C. – Highlighting an impressive list of legislative victories during the 109th Congress, U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, R-WY, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today lauded the hard work of Committee members, who pulled together in the 109th Congress and passed bills focused on issues close to the heart for the majority of Americans – securing a lifetime of opportunity at school, at work, and at home.

“For the last two years, we have worked tirelessly to provide lifelong opportunities for people to be healthier, more competitive in the global economy, and more financially secure in school, at work, and in retirement,” Enzi said. “American families have looked to us to provide real solutions to the problems they face in their every day lives, and we have delivered, with 37 bills reported out of Committee, 23 bills approved by the full Senate, and 14 laws signed by President Bush.”

“Our record of accomplishment is proof that we are a ‘can do’ Congress. Of course, the political landscape has prevented us from completing our work on several important issues,” Enzi added. “But in the next Congress I will continue to lead the charge on legislation that is critical to American students, families, and workers. I will work to improve health care quality, reduce health insurance costs, expand health care access, and increase accountability by promoting Small Business Health Plans, FDA and drug safety reform, and the development of health information technology.”

“I will also work to ensure that American students develop the knowledge and skills they need to secure high-skill, high-wage and high-demand jobs by reauthorizing and improving on the Higher Education Act, Head Start, No Child Left Behind, and the Workforce Investment Act. These programs are crucial to preserving American competitiveness in the global economy.”

Enzi said he also will push for Senate passage of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Modernization Act (S. 2823) when Congress reconvenes on November 13th. “HIV/AIDS

is one of the most important health care matters we'll work on in the 109th Congress," Enzi said. "The bill before the Senate represents months and months of bipartisan and bicameral work and will help ensure more equitable treatment opportunities for all persons with HIV/AIDS. We cannot let this work go unfinished."

The 109th Congress marked an increased involvement by HELP subcommittees to develop and move forward critical legislation, and Enzi praised the dedication and hard work of the Subcommittee Chairmen.

"This Congress the HELP Committee has been privileged to have in its ranks active Subcommittee Chairmen and engaged members—and this is largely the reason for our legislative successes. I thank them for their dedication and applaud them for our joint success as a Committee," Enzi said. "Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness, Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Education and Early Childhood Development, Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, and Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Retirement Security and Aging, have all been instrumental in advancing key legislation."

Enzi also thanked the Committee's Ranking Member, Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), for his support, saying: "We simply could not have accomplished as much as we have without the cooperation and contributions of Senator Kennedy. He and I may disagree on a number of issues, but we have worked hard to find common ground, and we share a commitment to improving the health, education, and work and retirement security of all Americans."

During the 109th Congress, the HELP Committee, under Chairman Enzi's leadership, has taken action on the following bills:

Signed into Law

- **Pensions Protection Act (P.L. 109-280)**: the biggest revision to pension laws in 30 years; strengthens and reforms pension funding rules to secure the retirements of millions of Americans.
- **Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act - MINER Act (P.L. 109-236)**: the first revision to mine safety laws in 28 years; promotes the use of new technologies to improve mine safety and save lives.
- **Deficit Reduction Act (P.L. 109-171)**: HELP provisions yield \$15.5 billion in savings AFTER helping college students by reauthorizing many components of HEA.
- **Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act (P.L. 109-270)**: modernizes and improves accountability for career and technical education programs.

- **Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act (P.L. 109-41)**: allows physicians to compare and analyze medical errors without the fear of being sued and without compromising patient safety.
- **Patient Navigator Outreach and Chronic Disease Prevention Act (P.L. 109-18)**: helps poor, older, and underinsured individuals navigate complex health systems with assistance from trained professionals.
- **Medical Device User Fee Stabilization Act (P.L. 109-43)**: streamlines FDA review of medical devices and increases safety.
- **Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act (P.L. 109-129)**: establishes a National Cord Blood Stem Cell Bank Network to enable patient match, use, and research.
- **National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act (P.L. 109-60)**: establishes and improves upon state controlled substance monitoring programs.
- **State High Risk Pool Funding Extension Act (P.L. 109-172)**: supports programs to maintain health insurance pools for high risk individuals.
- **National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (P.L. 109-245)**: extends the maximum duration of voluntary service to the National Foundation for the CDC.
- **Contact Lenses Amendment to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (P.L. 109-96)**: allows the FDA to regulate contact lenses as medical devices to save eyesight.
- **YouthBuild Transfer Act (P.L. 109-281)**: assists young adults not currently enrolled in school gain needed education, skills, and knowledge while serving their communities.
- **Higher Education Extension Act (P.L. 109-292)**: extends provisions of the Higher Education Act through June 2007.

Approved by the Senate

- **Children's Hospitals Educational Equity and Research Act – CHEER Act (S. 265)**: reauthorizes the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program children's hospitals to support training at children's teaching hospitals.
- **Foundation for the National Institutes of Health Improvement Act (S. 302)**: supports the National Foundation for Biomedical Research.
- **Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (S. 306)**: establishes clear guidance for health insurers and employers about the use and disclosure of genetic information to prevent discrimination.
- **Workforce Investment Act (H.R. 27)**: gives states the flexibility to provide training for jobs in high-skill, high-wage and high-demand occupations needed to ensure American competitiveness in the global economy.
- **Wired for Health Care Quality Act (S. 1418)**: encourages the adoption of cutting edge information technologies in health care intended to improve patient care, reduce medical errors, and lower costs.
- **Children and Media Research Advancement Act – CAMRA Act (S. 1902)**: promotes research into the social, behavioral, and biological impact of electronic media on youth development.

- **Older Americans Act Amendments (H.R. 6197)**: reauthorizes and improves upon a range of social service programs for older Americans, including home-delivered nutrition, community service employment, long-term care coordination and elder abuse and neglect prevention.
- **Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act – PREEMIE Act (S. 707)**: expands, intensifies, and coordinates research into the causes and treatment of premature births in order to reduce rates of premature delivery, promote evidence-based care and treatment for women and infants, and reduce infant mortality and disabilities caused by prematurity.
- **Combating Autism Act (S. 843)**: expands research and coordination at National Institutes of Health (NIH) with regard to the possible causes and potential treatments of autism, increases autism awareness through Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and integrates health, education, and disability programs for persons diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

Approved by the HELP Committee

- **Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act (S. 265)**: promotes the collection and categorization of trauma data in a consistent and standardized manner; improves emergency medical services by increasing communication and coordination with State trauma systems.
- **Caring for Children Act (S. 525)**: promotes the goals of early learning, school preparedness, and parental involvement in the education of young children in child care settings.
- **Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act (S. 1107)**: reauthorizes the Head Start program and makes changes to increase accountability, improve overall quality, and boost funding for the program.
- **Biodefense and Pandemic Vaccine and Drug Development Act (S. 1873)**: establishes the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Agency (BARDA) to coordinate activities to support and accelerate research and development of qualified countermeasures to hazardous agents or infectious diseases.
- **Health Insurance Marketplace Modernization and Affordability Act – HIMMA (S.1955)**: reduces health insurance costs and expands coverage by allowing business and trade associations to band together across the nation and offer Small Business Health Plans (SBHPs) to provide affordable group health insurance.

- **Ryan White HIV/AIDS Modernization Act (S. 2823)**: increases overall federal investment in programs to treat individuals with HIV/AIDS; reforms flawed formulas to ensure more equitable distribution of funds to areas where the disease is spreading most rapidly.
- **American History Achievement Act (S. 860)**: promotes greater achievement in United States history and civics.
- **Dietary Supplement and Nonprescription Drug Consumer Protection Act (S. 3546)**: protects consumers and helps the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) better understand the adverse affects of supplements and non-prescription drugs by requiring manufacturers and distributors to report all serious adverse events associated with use of their products to the FDA.
- **Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act (S. 757)**: creates a national strategy to conduct research into the possible links between breast cancer and the environment; establishes Collaborative centers to expand and coordinate research across institutions and disciplines, encourage the development of innovative approaches to study under-explored areas of the environment and breast cancer, and outline key research questions.
- **Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (S. 3678)**: protects public health and well-being in the event of a public health emergency by ensuring better coordination, better preparation, more accountability and more careful evaluations of each state's readiness.
- **Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence Act (S. 2322)**: improves patient safety and health care quality while reducing costs by advancing uniform standards for medical imaging certification.
- **Keeping Seniors Safe from Falls and Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act (S.1531)**: reauthorizes a study through CDC and the NIH to determine the incidence and prevalence of traumatic brain injury, identify common therapeutic interventions, and develop rehabilitation guidelines; directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to oversee and support national and local education campaigns focusing on reducing falls among older adults to secure the safety health of older Americans.
- **Health Centers Renewal Act (S. 3771)**: reauthorizes Health Centers programs to provide regular access to high quality health care to people living in rural and underserved areas.
- **Railroad Technical Improvement Act (H.R. 5074)**: allows the Secretary of the Treasury to remain the disbursing agent for payment of railroad retirement benefits to reduce administrative costs.